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Environment Department to Hold Meeting on VOC Regulation

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will hold a public meeting on proposed revisions to the air quality construction permitting regulation in Santa Fe at the Air Quality Bureau's conference room, 2052 Galisteo Street, on June 20 from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. NMED has proposed to add volatile organic compounds (VOCs), an ozone precursor, to the list of pollutants for which a permit would be required.

A public hearing on the proposed regulatory revision will also be held. It is scheduled for the August 8th meeting of the Environmental Improvement Board at the New Mexico State Capitol Building, Room 317, Santa Fe, at 9:30 a.m.

“We believe it is important to regulate volatile organic compounds in our construction permitting program,” said Sandra Ely, Chief of the Department’s Air Quality Bureau. “This regulation will help us maintain and protect New Mexico's healthy, clean air.”

Before 1995 the New Mexico Ambient Air Quality Standard for non-methane hydrocarbons contained in the Air Quality Control Regulations, effectively regulated many VOCs. However, in 1995, at the Department's request, the Environmental Improvement Board determined that the standard for non-methane hydrocarbon was obsolete and deleted the standard from the Air Quality Control Regulations.

Since that time, the Department has continuously regulated volatile organic compounds as an ozone precursor through the construction permitting regulation. NMED is revising the regulation now to continue this drive and clarify that VOCs are included in the scope of the regulation

For additional information, please contact Rita Trujillo of NMED’s Air Quality Bureau at (505) 955-8024 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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